

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092467
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 ACDA-12
L-03 MCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:LEINAUDI:FBL
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
ARA:JABUSHNELL
ARA/AND:RBARNEBEY
ARA/RPP:CFINAN
PM:PCLAPP
S/P:SCOHEN
ACDA:EFINEGOLD
S/S:DANDERSON
T:LBROWN

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O 111719Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 092467

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VE

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS RESTRAINT

REF: CARACAS 3063

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE OUTLINES PLANS TO FOLLOW UP THE
CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT DISCUSSION THAT TOOK PLACE
DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT (PARA 2F REFTTEL), AND ASKS THAT
YOU SOUND OUT INFORMALLY WHETHER VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 092467

WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE THE SECRETARY OFFER TO SEND
A US CIVIL-MILITARY TEAM TO VISIT CARACAS TO PRESENT US
APPROACH IN PERSON RATHER THAN IN WRITING, SO AS TO EX-
CHANGE VIEWS ON POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVES AND MOST
EFFECTIVE MEANS OF SUPPORTING THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONSIDERING HOW TO COORDINATE WITH GOV ON POS-

SIBLE INITIATIVES TO RENEW EFFORTS TOWARD A MULTILATERAL ARMS RESTRAINT AGREEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE INITIAL FOLLOW UP TO THE CARTER-PEREZ TALKS WOULD BEST BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SENIOR GOV OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE DIRCTLY CONCERNED. WE BELIEV THIS PROCEDURE WOULD, BY ENABLING US TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO QUESTIONS OF INTEPRETATION AND

INTENT, MAKE OUR POSITION CLEARER ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT THAN COULD ANY WRITTEN PAPER. MOST IMPORTANTLY, BY EXCHANGING VIEWS ON POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS, IT WOULD ALSO ENABLE US TO FACTOR VENEZUELAN VIEWS INTO OUR OWN PLANNING AT AN EARLY STAGE.

3. BEGIN FYI: AN OUTLINE TALKER "NON-PAPER" IS NOW IN PREPARATION. IT COVERS US POLICY AND PLANNING FOR GLOBAL RESTRAINT, THE HISTORY AND POLICY BACKGROUND OF REGIONAL EFFORTS, AND THEN EXAMINES IN ILLUSTRATIVE TERMS POSSIBLE ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY REGIONAL RECIPIENTS ALONG WITH PARALLEL STEPS THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY OUTSIDE SUPPLIERS. SUCH A NON-PAPER COULD BE PRESENTED IN SEVERAL WAYS. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE GUIDED BY GOV DESIRES, OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE SO ARRANGED THAT ANY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 092467

PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THEM APPEARS AT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE AND AVOIDS ANY SEMBLANCE OF US DICTATION;

-- TO FACILITATE AN INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH THROUGH THIS AND THE SUCCEEDING VENEZUELAN ADMINISTRATION, THE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD IDEALLY INCLUDE A RANGE OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS.

-- ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON AS READILY AS IN CARACAS, THE LATTER MAY ENABLE US TO ENGAGE A BROADER SPECTRUM OF VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS.

4. WE BELIEVE SOME FORM OF LATIN AMERICAN MULTILATERAL ARMS RESTRAINT AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO IF IT CAN BE LINKED IN SOME FORM TO SUPPLIER RELIABILITY, AND IF WE GIVE THE EFFORT SUSTAINED, LOW-KEY TECHNICAL AND INTELLECTUAL SUPPORT. BECAUSE ANY AGREEMENT WOULD, AT THE LATIN AMERICAN END, DEPEND GREATLY ON MILITARY ACCEPTANCE, WE WANT TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF THIS BEING AN EXCLUSIVELY CIVILIAN MANEUVER, HENCE OUR DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE FROM THE START THAT WE INTEND TO TAKE MILITARY INTERESTS AND VIEWS FULLY INTO

ACCOUNT. THUS, ANY US DELEGATION SHOULD HAVE MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVES. SHOULD THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOV PROVE FRUITFUL, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO KEEP ACTIVELY IN TOUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AND TO UNDERTAKE SIMILAR APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER RECIPIENTS AND THE RELEVANT SUPPLIERS.

5. A MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY IS IN PREPARATION SETTING FORTH THIS OVERALL STRATEGY. DEPENDING ON YOUR

SOUNDINGS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY THAT HE WRITE CONSALVI OFFERING TO SEND A DELEGATION ALONG THE LINES YOU RECOMMEND. END FYI.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 092467

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE APPROACH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND/OR FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI TO DETERMINE INFORMALLY WHETHER THEY WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO AN OFFER TO SEND A SMALL DELEGATION AS DISCUSSED ABOVE. IF THEY ARE AGREEABLE TO THIS METHOD OF IMPLEMENTING THE CARTER-PEREZ TALKS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY THAT WE PROVIDE INTERLOCUTORS AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT THAT LEVEL SHOULD BE, AND ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT SHOULD BE AT A MORE POLITICAL OR AT A MORE TECHNICAL LEVEL, AND WHETHER MILITARY CONTACTS ARE POSSIBLE AT THIS EARLY STAGE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON TIMING. OBLIGATIONS AT THIS END SUGGEST THAT THE WEEK OF APRIL 17 WOULD BE BEST. THE LESS DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER MAY 9. VANCE

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